

AC-7.262

Reference Registry

62-9278

NOTE: DCI and DDCI advised at
morning briefing, 20 December 18 UFC 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director of Central Intelligence
SUBJECT : Handling Time of President's Message to his Brother
[redacted]

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1. Mr. Sheldon asked me to check on how subject message was handled and why it took so long from the time of transmission until time of delivery. Attached is a breakdown showing handling times which need some comment so it can be understood.

a. You will note that it took 16 minutes to prepare the message for transmission via the Pentagon. Since the Orrick Committee began operation a number of circuits from Latin America are now terminated in the Pentagon; therefore, it was necessary for us to encrypt and send this message via the Pentagon. The time that it took to prepare the message, 16 minutes, was the encryption process in preparing a one-time tape. This message was prepared as a CIA message, therefore, under the principle of privacy of communications, it had to be encrypted to pass through the Pentagon.

b. I do not know how to account for the 57 minutes that it took to send this message by the Pentagon. I do not know how long the Pentagon held it, if at all, before transmission nor how long it took to decrypt it [redacted]

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c. There is no lateral secure communications between [redacted] where the Attorney General apparently had gone.

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d. It was necessary [redacted] to re-encipher the message in one-time pad and transmit it to CIA Station [redacted] CW. The CW circuit from [redacted] is used only for emergency since the Orrick Committee leased a circuit between [redacted] Pentagon.

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e. I do not know why it took 2 hours and 6 minutes from time of receipt [redacted] I can only speculate that some time was lost in delivering the message to the station chief [redacted] to find out that the Attorney General had gone to [redacted] Some of this time, of course, was taken up in encrypting the message in one-time pad to be sent by CW from [redacted] The 24 minutes required to transmit the message from [redacted] is not unusual. It is neither a good time nor a bad time.

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f. You will note that the message, after receipt in [redacted], was not delivered to the Attorney General until one hour and 35 minutes after receipt. He evidently was not immediately available, although this one hour and 35 minutes included decryption time of the message which was in one-time pad, about 50 to 60 minutes.

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[redacted]
Director of Communications

Attachment:

Breakdown of Handling Times

cc: DD/I (Mr. Sheldon)

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